

Capitulation of the Island of Antigua. 1666

Signed Bastion Bagen then President of the Council

The Remonstrance of the Commandors, officers, Deputies & other the inhabitants
of the Iland Antigua. Declaring the Grounds & Reasons: that Informed them to
treat & Articulate, with the Lord Essebire, de la bards, L^t Generall for the
King of France, in the occidentall Indiens.

1666 Octo. 25.

Whereas the said L^t Generall, Arrived in five Islands harbours, on the 25th day of Octo. 1666 with a fleet
of eight galleys of ships, besides, barks, brigatines & ghoops, with about eight, or nine hundred soldiers
where after a shourt dispute, they became masters, of the forts & Ammunition to them belonging: having
the governour Col^t Robert Carden to retreat, [wherby they had opportunity to plunder & fire all the houses
in the Adjoyning to the said harbour] to the house of Capt^t Muggs, where with, about hundred & fifty
Men, hee remained all that night. And next morrowning, at break of the day, discouering the Enimies
Approach: drew up to the top of the hill, to which the said Enimie Advancing: our front standes before
them, the rest laying out, they had noe Ammunition, faced about & fled, to L^t Col^t Bayes: Except some
few, with the governour which got into the said muggs house: where after a little resistance, they were all
taken prisoners, & Carried on board their ships, with the plunder of the said house; which they upon their returne
sett on fire. that night, the said forces, that whereof fiftie & sixe, I abhorre to say, were
dissent dissions, made head at L^t Col^t Bayes: keeping out Continuall scouts, on horseback, to obserue the
Enimies motion: L^t Col^t Ghets being chosen to command: by whose order, the barbarian soldiers: about seaven
files, with some of our Islanders, where sent, to beat up the Enimies quarters: who marched, as farre as this
said muggs, & could not bee pergewaded, to proceed any further, but to the great discouragement of our
Islanders, Rebuked, bark, Againe, to the said bayes house. the next Morowning, our scouts gave notice
of the Enimies Advancing, to the east side of the said muggs house: where they made an hault about an
hour: sending parties about, to discouer if any Ambush, where laid for them, but finding none [for our small
number, & the peoples Advergness, would not permitt it] they marcht on, into the said bayes pastur, And thence
drawop, some two myzquells shot from the house: sendings a trumpet, with a note, from Col^t Carden
then prisoner; with the L^t Generalls protection, to his wife, for his selfe, familie & goods. the said Note
specifying their Civel life, of him selfe & the rest of the prisoners, And the Enimies Resolution to Redit the
Iland; And as they have since Averid, a summons; which if in paper, was not delivered, if verball not Under-
stood. the Messenger being desirous, with thanks for their Civilitie, to our prisoners, And our promis to use
the like to theirs, when any should fall into our hands: they fittid them selues,迫切ly for the Assauult, being
by Relation, About six hundred Men, lead on by the governour of Martinico, Guadaloupe, & Margalanta, besides
the Marquis, Intendant, & many other persons of quality: And wee for our defences, nott being two hundred
men, placed at the foot of the hill, behinde the stakes. the dispute, was very sharp for halfe an hour, when
the Enimie, much qualed with our shot, Ran violently on, And broak the passages through, upon our men: wh
where thereby forced to retreat, up the hill; in which felwest many of them where slain & wounded, the Enimie
being very hott; Most were forced to fly into the fields; the others recovered the house, where they
made, what Resistans they could: butt being overpowered, most of them killid & wounded, the rest jacked
upon quarter, and where Carried away prisoners, Aboard the shipt, amongst whom was L^t Col^t Charles Ghets
desperately wounded, the house they Consfact, plundered, & sett on fire, with all the buildings, mill boylng
house, Curing houses with the sugar therein, & All other Edifics. having thus finisched their destruction in
this place, they returned to five Islands, & in their way, burnt the stonhouzes of the said bayes, at the sea side
being full of sugar: As also the said muggs sugar works, Carrying away his Coopers, Cases &c. the maior
part of them that Escaped, Repaireid to Capt^t Winthrop, as a plard. fitt to make head Againe, where they Conti-
nued that night, Expecting the Enimie; And the next day more coming in, Made up the number, neare two
hundred men, of which where seaven files of barbadian, who after they where furnished, with powder & ball,
they wanted; publickly declared, they wold obey none, butt whom they please; And that they wold goe to the Roode,
to the rest of the barbadians. here began our inward distractions, many of the Islanders manyfesting their
unwillingnesse, to Engage any more, Against the Enimie. Notwithstanding, having chosen L^t Col^t Bastien
Bayes, to bee their Commandor, they where pergewaded to keep into a body, And things where ordend, as wel, as
the time wold permitt. About noone, our scouts brought in a trumpetter, with this summons -

the lord the labars, L^t Generall of the most Christian King, in the west indians
wos make knowne to the inhabitants of this Iland Antigua, that if Against this day noone, they shall nott
submit themselves, to the obediencie, of the King of France, wee will destroy by fire the whole Iland: And we
will nott give quarter to any person: yett, for your favourables & advantagious caling; of the Roode
to meet with us. Dode in the Roode in Antigua, & novemb^r new yere 1666. *L^t Essebire de la bards*

Very few of the offyce & Gentlemen of the Country, where present when this summons was brought; being with
the Companies at the figgetrees, in their way towards that party, at Capt^t Winthrop, therfore it was thought
fitt, to defayre An Anguer, untill they could bee conveined, the publicke interest debated, And a generall result
concluded, And to that purpose, the trumpetter, was dispatch, with this message:

My Lord; we have received yo^r summons, And in Regard other persons, in Remote parts of the Iland, Are Equally
concerned with vs, in that busyness: we shall Command, with them about it, And returne our answer to yo^r Lordship
by a messenger of our owne, Against the time perfixed. in the intime weare yo^r Lordships servants
dated Octo. 28. 1666

Bastien Bayes: Gilbert Gregoir

Next day the Commandors, officers, & deputies of most of the dissions, with some other gentlemen, Met at the
house of Mr. Henry Meyer: And having taken into Consideration, the Enimie strength, as is mentioned before in the
beginning; his Resolution, which was to burne, & destroy without quarter, his courage, which our men suffitiently
prooved in the last Conflict; his advantage, having shipts & boats, constantly out, to land where they please
without tiring, or hazarding his men; good Armes & Ammunition enough; And on the other side, our weakness
the whole Iland nott being able to raise, sufficient force, to withstand so robust an Enimie; the impossibility
of following him, to such places as hee might land at; butt that hee might still burne hill & destroy with

Without Resistance; not power enough, in the whole land, to hold out as Considerable disputes, or Engagements with him; And after that no hope of Rescue, nor place of safety to retreat too, except the land is well maintained; the many destructions & Confusions Amongst our selves; severall openly declaring, they would oppose the Enemie no more, but would god to make their owne conditions, if the officer wold not; the Negroe running away to the Enemie, And carrying away with them, their Masters goods; so that in a very short time, he would have been possessed, of all our slaves & goodes; And lastly our old inveterate Enemie the barbarous Indian who as was expected, lay ready to burne & destroy; upon the north side: which five dayes after were found by whose full experience; for upon the fifth of November, they fell upon my lord willoughby's plantation, killed his people carried away, all that was portable for their uses, & most of his slaves; burnt all his houses & foyars, worladowne to the ground; doding the like to m^r Joseph Hodgeson, & others: some people killed by them in the path, others unavoidable, added to the blud & destruction, soone & felt two daies before; left us without hope of resisting the present Enemie; And therfore concluded, it better, in the sight of god & man, to surrender upon Articles, for the putturing of the lives [And as faire as we could] the Estates of the kinge subiects, then to loose both, through an iniurious obstinacie; And there upon this following Answer was sent to the ls^t generall.

Right Honourable

Wee have received yo^r of the seventeenth of November new stile; which is some thing shart to be, not knowing of a former summons, which is specified by yo^r trumpeter, & by some Lined of the Gentlemen yo^r priuieyours; Which was propably, yet altogether unknowne to them, as well as to us, And therfore doing yo^r honour, Not to multake the intention of our Councillies, now to believe that wee shall omitt, Any respects to yo^r Civil people, of a treaty, time & place at yo^r choice; where some Gentlemen of ours, may treat with yo^r honour, or Commissioners, for as wee are Resolved, with gods Assistance, Not to forfeit our Allegiance, to our prince, by delivering up his possession basely, so wee shall not be iniurious to our selfes, nor render our Actions so Contemptible, to men of Reason, As not to Accept what shall bee moderate, betweene both; And likewise to avoid the effusion of blud, which may happen: Thus humbly desiring yo^r Civil Construction, of what Mistake haue passed, wee subscribe our selues - dated 29th of Oct^r 1666
John Bonde: Bastiaen Bayew: Richard Buraston: philip Warner: John Noye: John Pootington: James Holliday: Richard Ayres: Henry Nicholls: Jeromie Watkins: Gilbert Gregorie: William Lee: Thomas Compton: Thomas Taylor: James Hall: thomas Longdon: harvey Kaynell.

This Answer being sent upon the said Conclusion, the 29th day of oct^r by a messenger of our owne: the said ls^t Gentleman

wee have received yo^r writing of this day, delivered to be by yo^r deputies: wee wish that you had sooner, thought of a meeting with us; which would haue prevented, a great deale of blud shed, on yo^r side, & great distruption of yo^r good: wee are Resolved to send you Considerable personell on our part, with full power to treat, with you which are to come to the land, over against the storkynge, at st^t John; And will bee comming on wednesday b^r zeaven o clock in the Morning; you will not fail: Also, to send some personell on yo^r part, to the same storkynge, with full power to conclude that treaty: that this busyness may not be prolonged. it will not bee to the dishonour of yo^r king, to putt yo^r Estates, & land under protection. when heare dyd not haue the power to doo it, hee haue scottough you are enemies, yet shold not advise you, to leave his obedience: if wee had not power in our hands, to enforde you too it. our demaund may plainly, perouade you; that wee wish to haue opportunity to make you taste, the oderarie Councillies & Cuntoies of our Nation: of which I affirme yo^r servent Leifbure de la bard.

Wherupon, the next Morning, Commissioners for the said treaty, were agreed upon & impowered, by the subscribers, to the following Commission, under their handes & seals.

By the Commanders, officers & deputies, for severall devissions of this land Antigua -

Whereas the lord le feuvre, de la bard, ls^t generall to the king of France, Arrived at this land, the 25th day of this instant, with a fleet of shipping, & forces from the said king, for the Redding of the said land, to the obedience of the king of France: And having made severall attempts, of hostillity, against the same did upon the 28th instant; by a trumpeter, send a summons, for the surrendring of the said land: which being Answered, & a treaty Concluded, did, by Consent, Appoint, by his Repley, of the 29th instant a Meeting of Commissioners, of both parties, at st^t John's harbour, the 31st instant: then to thred to treat, Conference & Conclude touching, the said summons, & surrendre. therfore therfore to Authorise & Empower you, Capt^t John Bonde, & Capt^t Bastiaen Bayew: Capt^t Joseph Lee: Capt^t Jamill Winthrop: Capt^t philip Warner, & m^r James Holliday; to repair to the said harbour, at the said times; then to thred to treat, with the said Commissioners, propofals, & Articles of Surrender [if you shall thinke fitt to make; And every other inquisition, that may happen] to conclude, for the surrendre of the said land; and y^r for the people of the same land. as also you are hereby futher authorized, upon yo^r dislike of the said treaty, Not Recieving, such satisfaction, as may quiete the intent, of the intent of the inhabitants, to breake off the said treaty: And what you shall order in that land: wee do hereby promise to keepe & Confirm: in best manner wherof wee have hereunto set our handes & seals, in the said land, the thirtieth day of oct^r 1666.

Richard Buraston: Richard Ayres: Henry Nicholls: John Fry: Gilbert Gregorie: Thomas Longdon: John Noye, obidat. Bradshaw: Jeromie Watkins: Walter Livers: harvey Kaynell: thomas Taylor: James Hall: Richard Brownes: William Proctoe: Clement Edward:

so Many haue been our afflictions, that amongst the many spoiles, destructions & invasions, of the Enemie, we had almost forgotten, to remeber, how that the same time, they Assaulted us, at m^r Capt^t Bayew, they made an inroad, upon bernardine bayly, & the creek: burning & destroying, as they went -

Wee are come, now to the last day of the moneth, & the first of the treaty: on which our Commissioners are Repaireed to the place Appointed: where after a little stay, severall sloops, & gallions appeared, And being a Comme near the shans, sent for them to come on board, where was m^r de Chambord, Governor of martins^r & the intendant m^r Le Chambray: Commissioners on the French part. This day was spent without finishing the Articles: they standing upon very hard terms, with us: the treaty Adiuised, till the next day: Above the Admirall: where both parties mett, & after long debate, Concluded the Articles of Surrender: which were Ratified by the ls^t Generall of the French on their part, And by the Commanders, officers & deputies

Deputies, & other Gentlemen, Inhabitants of this Island, on our part, in which we doubt not all Judicious
And impartiall men, will perceive, a greater Care hath been taken, to provide our Allegiances: to our King
then by particular Intrest of his Subjects.
having made, what defence, possibly could bee expected, from so weak a Colony, lying dispart, & farre from
Friends, And thredy divisions, being almost Ruinated & destroyed, by the French already: The others Exacting
Hourly, to receive the like assault. And to bee Rewnd by fire & sword, has wee not harkened to the propositus, of
a treaty, besides that wee were certainly informed, that the Enimies Resolution was, not to depart without; Re-
ducing the Island: So many perfomt of honour, being Engaged therin: And therfor at the beginning had dispatch
a ship, for more men, to finish their works; when in the meane time they shd have, fired & destroyed round
the Island, near the sea side; by which we shd have been forced, to flee into the mountaines, thence to perish.
by cold & famine, or to the lower woods, to bee murthered by the bloody Indians: of all whicht the Enimies In-
tentio[n], wee had sufficient intelligence, from a French boy taken prisoner, at the beginning. And afterward
Confirmed by some of our owne prisoners; so that could we have seen this least possibility of defeding
those places: Against those two enimies, at onts, we shd not have taken this Count, so much to our disadvantage
for testemomie whereof, we have herunto set our hands. in Antigua the ninth Novemb^r 1666.

John Rijpe Joseph Lee

Samuel Wintrop

John: Wm:

John Bragge

Joseph Hodkyns

Geo: Coteswells

Thomas Longdon

William Thomas

John Campbell

John Lammy

Clement Curran

John Stand

John Lyndall
Richard Syres

Walter Leinen
Ob: Bradshaw

James Hodd

Ren: Nester

Tho: Taylor

James Hall

Philip Warner

Rich: Bradfou

for as much as the barbadian soldiery, [taking Adva[n]tage] After departure of the French fleet
from this Island, had endeavoured by letters & otherwise: to make the world believe, that their valour
& resolution, had frightened them away, & so boast them selves, preswnder of the said Island: it is
thought convenient, to add this small postscript, to the foregoing Remonstrance, that those who
desire a true information, though the matter be never so diſcussed, Rather than live in falsehoods,
of the most Amiable, Complexion, may receive a just Account, of those people & their Parades:
the day of the engagement, at C[o]st. Bayes, being yesterday the 27th day of the month: where
present about seaven fift of them, under the command of Ensigns wall, who was slain in the fight
and by whose incouragement, they partly regained, their lost Reputation the night before, when they
Refused to beat up the Enimies quarters, notwithstanding, they had begged that Employment: And I
prevented others that would have done it. the evening of the same day, [After the defeat] they
gott together to Capt. Winthrop, remaining there that night, And then began to declare, that they
would obey noe officer, but whom they pleased: the next Morning, Ammunition was given them
And two hoggs for their Chare, with which not being Contented, they fell to killing hoggs, &
sheep etc. together with other rude people, by their example, untill they had destroyed, that
day seaven hoggs, thirty sheep, & forty odd turkeys: besides ducks & dunghill fowls -

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Many of which where yet, with two or three in their bellies: when one they had killed, was
not to their minds, they ~~were~~ ^{had} threw it in the Barbado, An hill an other. the 29th they separated them
selves, from the rest of the Company, & Marched away to Mr. Strijves houses; whence ~~they~~ ^{he} came
to them, one Ensigne William Lea, And most of the rest of the Barbadians; the said Lea, reported
to the Gentlemen of the Country, that where met at Mr. myne, to consider whether the Island was
in a condition to oppose the Enemy; or whether they shoulde condescend to a treaty: it was found
necessary to do so: an Answered to the said summons for a treaty, was drawnne, & signed by the Gub-
servants, of ^{which} the said Lea was one; And so returned to the Barbadian soldiery, at the said Strijves
houses. the next three dayes, whiles the busynesse of the treaty was in action, the said Lea & his
party, having got possession of three buttis of Rum, drew all loose people to them that would
come, bade the said Lea ^{to} their Commander in chief: And in this heale, began a resolution to
oppose the Enemy; in this manner the continued swingeing, And sending party abroad to the
neighbours, for to bring in their stock to feed them: Exstolling their owne courage. And the
officers which they had made, Refusing to obey their own Capt. John Coddington, or Agree to
any thing, the Commissioners of the Treaty, had done: publishing their supposed resolutions
to fight it out, to the Salt man, till this time they kept close, to the buttis of Rum, it least nine
miles from the Enemy: having thus spent five dayes, Practically growing faint, And the said party
complaining, much of their Abuse, as by his letter to the Commissioners showing the said Com-
missioners, where at one Capt. Seaynells, a place furme enough, being about six miles distant
from the Enemy, And well furnished, with hoggs, sheep & Cattle, they Marched up thither, under
pretence to peace upon the said Commissioners; No sooner came they thither, but they killed all they
could come at, being by the said Seaynells relation twenty two hoggs, sheep, besides fowles.
So abominable was their spoile, in that place, that six field of the Islanders, whom the strength
of the Rum, & their vain glory, had brought with them thither where ashamed of their
designes, which was only to plunder & destroy, so left them. the next morning being the
1st Nov. the said Lea sent a small party downe the hill, to Barrow, Lt. Col. Shiff house, he being
a prisoner, as it was thought mortally wounded, And to bring what cattle they could get from thence, Lt. Col. Baynes the order was putt in execution, the Curing houses & negroes houses, burnt to the ground
as firs made under the bed in the dwelling houses, But that so great a wickednesse was by one of the Company
prevented, And the houses saved, Contrary to the will, order & knowledge of the said Lea. the following night they
continued at the said Seaynells, where two dayes before, the said Lt. Col. Baynes, had putt four shiff, that he had
had in the wood from the plunder of the Enemy, which the said Lea, & one Joseph Richardson, his Counsellor, And
William Taylor, out of his Captains, when the people of the houses, where supposed to be a sleep, broaks open
And carryed away, Every thing of value therein, Not leaving him a shirt or shute to wear, more then he had on
his back, in reward of his service against the Enemy, the which before, the same day about the ten a clock
never saw the Enemy, nor came within six miles of them, but constantly kept them still, at farre from them as
as they could. Let the impartiall judges, or neither affraid of men Condemnat called them away, leaving this to
further enquiry, or neither the over ruling hand, of the Almighty God, who made war, & created peace, hath
done this, Let the wife in heart consider.

Scribbled by
Capt. Coddington
Nov 1st 1660